Approved For Release 2008/08/06 : CIA-RDP92T00533R000100120009-9

SECRET [redacted] 25X1

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #03011-88
31 August 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Fritz W. Ermarth
Chairman

SUBJECT: Sense of the Community Memorandum on Panama Sanctions

1. Action: That you approve distribution of the attached Sense of the Community Memorandum assessing the current impact of US economic sanctions on Panama.

2. Deane Hoffmann, NIO/ECON, has recommended the distribution of an update on the impact of sanctions. A more broad-gauged NIE on political prospects for Panama is in the works but won't be completed until later in the fall.

3. The attached Sense of the Community Memorandum was drafted by [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] the Assistant NIO/ECON, and coordinated by CIA, DIA, NSA, Army, 25X1
Navy, Treasury, and [redacted] Knowing him to be concerned about 25X1
the political and policy impact of a largely negative assessment, I checked personally with Mort Abramowitz as to his view of this Memorandum. Mort reviewed it personally, found it sound and professional, and recommends its distribution.

4. I am seeking your permission to go ahead with distribution because of the political sensitivity of the subject. I think this Memorandum soberly assesses the situation and meets our obligation to keep a candid assessment before the policymaker without being gratuitously carping about problems of which all are aware. The broader political NIE on Panama should be ready by the time the USG is again in a position to review policy toward that country.

5. Recommendation: That you approve NIC distribution of the attached Sense of the Community Memorandum.

Fritz W. Ermarth

Attachment:
As stated

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CONCUR:

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence — Date

APPROVED:

Director of Central Intelligence — Date

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DCI/C/NIC:FWErmarth:bha(31Aug88)

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Distribution:
Orig - DCI
1 - DDCI
1 - SA/DCI
1 - ER
1 - NIO/Econ
1 - NIO/LA
1 - NIC/PO
2 - C/NIC

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